

Memorandum

Date: August 5, 2010

To: Chuck Armor
Regional Manager
Region 3, Bay Delta

From: Virginia Afentoulis
Fishery Biologist
Region 3, Bay-Delta

Subject: 2010 Summer Townet Survey Striped Bass Index

The 2010 Summer Townet Survey age-0 striped bass index is 1.5, an increase from the 0.8 index in 2009 and the highest index since 2003 (Figure 1).

The index is calculated as an interpolation between the 2 survey indices that bound when the age-0 striped bass collected reach a mean fork length of 38.1 mm. The 38.1 mm length was reached on July 23rd this year. The Summer Townet Survey index is the first of 2 long-term measures of striped bass year class success; the second being the Fall Midwater Trawl index, which will be calculated at the end of this calendar year.

Striped bass catch in 2010 peaked in survey 1 (n=302 fish) and then declined with each successive survey through survey 4 with catches of 129, 117 and 48 fish, respectively. This year's index was calculated from data collected during surveys 3 and 4, which both occurred in July. The striped bass caught in surveys 3 and 4 came primarily from Montezuma Slough, and secondarily from the Suisun Bay and the lower Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers.

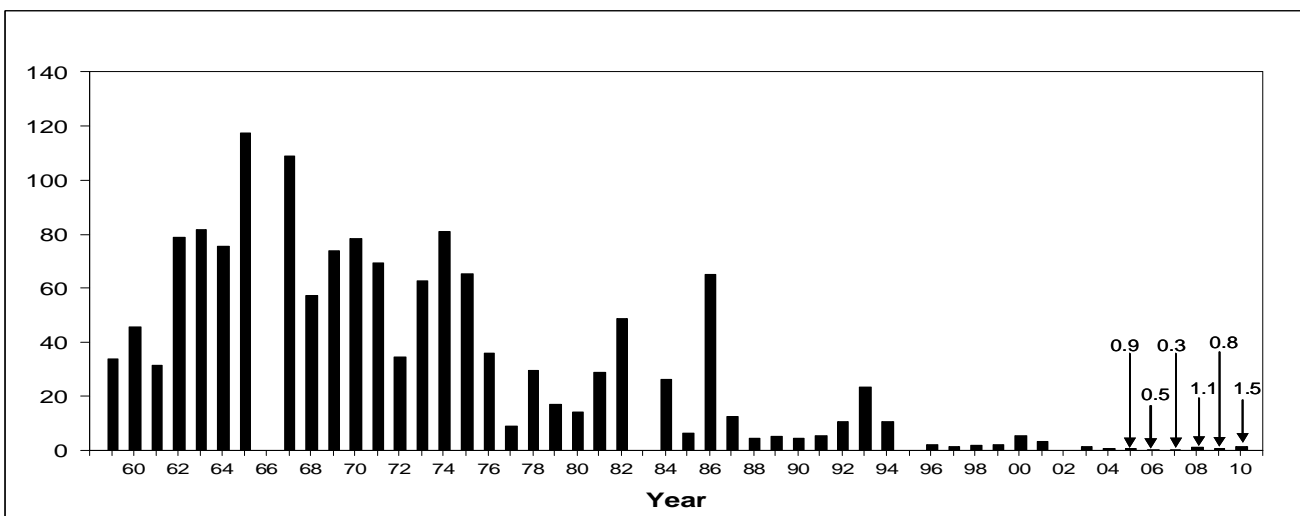


Figure 1. Summer Townet Survey age-0 striped bass abundance indices for 1959 through 2010. No indices were calculated for the years 1966, 1983, 1995 and 2002.

Additional survey information can be found on the Summer Townet web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=TOWNET>

cc: Marty Gingras
Bob Fujimura
Kathy Hieb